

## **Espacenet**

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#### DEVICE FOR PROTECTING A CHIP AND METHOD FOR OPERATING A CHIP

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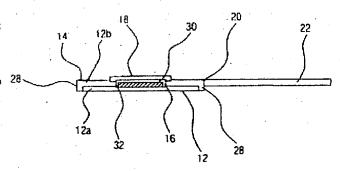
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Abstract not available for JP 2005524112 (T) Abstract of corresponding document: WO 03093167 (A1)

A device for protecting a chip (30) comprises a chamber (16) adapted to receive the chip (30), a window (18) allowing radiation to pass therethrough and to impinge the chip (30) and a gas inlet (20). The gas inlet is in communication with the chamber (16) and adapted to receive from a gas supply (22) a gas flow, the gas flow protecting the chip (30).



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Worldwide Database

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#### **CLAIMS**

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]

It is equipment (10) protected from degradation which makes a cause a reaction with a part of chip and a reaction component while having received an exposure of radiation for a chip (30) which contains at least one micro mirror which can be displaced according to an impressed signal, and the above-mentioned equipment (10) is.

A chamber (16) for storing the above-mentioned chip (30),

It has a window (18) which permits a penetration of the above-mentioned radiation, and an exposure of the above-mentioned chip (30) through which it passes in part at least,

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned reaction component is swept away from the above-mentioned chamber (16) by a flow of gas.

[Claim 2]

It is the equipment (10) according to claim 1,

Equipment which the above-mentioned reaction component is oxygen contained in the surrounding air, and is characterized by protecting a flow of the above-mentioned gas so that an ingredient which can oxidize the above-mentioned chip (30) while the above-mentioned chip (30) is operating with the above-mentioned radiation which hits the above-mentioned chip (30) may not oxidize.

[Claim 3]

It is the equipment (10) according to claim 1 or 2,

Equipment permitting that gas reveals the above-mentioned chamber (12) to the surrounding air.

[Claim 4]

It is the equipment (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 3,

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned chamber (16) is provided with an entrance (20) of gas formed so that a flow of gas for connecting with the above-mentioned chamber (16), and sweeping away the above-mentioned chamber (16) from a gas supply source (24) might be received.

[Claim 5]

It is the equipment (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 4,

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned chamber (16) is provided with an exit of gas connected with the above-mentioned chamber (16), and an exit of the above-mentioned gas is formed so that gas from the above-mentioned chamber (16) may be received.

[Claim 6]

It is the equipment (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 5,

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned window (18) inclines to the surface of the above-mentioned chip (30).

[Claim 7]

It is the equipment (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned radiation is ultraviolet rays.

[Claim 8]

It is the equipment (10) according to claim 7,

The above-mentioned window (18) makes the above-mentioned ultraviolet rays penetrate.

The above-mentioned chip (30) is provided with a micro mirror containing aluminum or an aluminum alloy and an electrode for generating electric power for displacing the above-mentioned micro mirror between the above-mentioned micro mirrors,

The above-mentioned electrode is formed by TiN, or contains TiN,

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned chip is arranged inside a package.

[Claim 9]

It is the equipment (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 8.

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned chamber (16) is provided with a means for an electrical link of the above-mentioned chip (30) and a power supply means of the exterior of the above-mentioned chamber (16). [Claim 10]

It is the equipment (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 9,

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned equipment (10) is further provided with housing (12, 12a, 12b) and the above-mentioned chamber (16) is formed of a crevice in the above-mentioned housing (12, 12a, 12b).

Claim 11

It is the equipment (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 10,

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned equipment (10) is provided with housing which contains chip housing (12a) and a superior lamella (12b) further.

[Claim 12]

It has an electrode for generating electric power between the above-mentioned micro mirrors, in order to displace a micro mirror in which it is how to operate a chip (30) and the above-mentioned chip (30) contains aluminum or an aluminum alloy, and the above-mentioned micro mirror, and is a described method,

A step which applies a flow of gas to the above-mentioned chip (30),

While a flow of the above-mentioned gas is applied by the above-mentioned chip (30), it has a step with which the above-

mentioned chip (30) is irradiated,

A method while glaring the above-mentioned chip (30), wherein it is protected from degradation.

[Claim 13]

It is the method according to claim 12,

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned radiation is ultraviolet rays.

[Claim 14]

It is the method according to claim 12 or 13,

A method while the above-mentioned electrode is formed from TiN, and the above-mentioned chip (30) is operating with radiation which hits the above-mentioned chip (30), wherein a flow of the above-mentioned gas prevents oxidation of the above-mentioned electrode.

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#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[Field of the Invention]

[0001]

Especially this invention relates to protection from degradation [ it receives the exposure of the radiation of a chip ] of a between about protection from degradation of an electronic component chip.

[Background of the Invention]

[0002]

The equipment containing the micro mirror accumulated after one piece or two or more chips is used for various applicable fields, such as a field of an optical switch, and a field of light modulation, now. The micro mirror contained in a chip is mechanically displaced according to an electrical signal, and spatial modulation of the light with which it was irradiated from the light source and which was reflected by the micro mirror can be carried out. In order to use it in the ultraviolet light region which has the wavelength of about 248 nanometers, the micro mirror formed from aluminum or the aluminum alloy provided with the good optical reflection property in this light range is used.

[0003]

The publicly known chip containing the micro mirror formed from aluminum or an aluminum alloy has an electrode arranged under the micro mirror. In order to displace a micro mirror, an electrical signal is impressed to an electrode. In typical equipment, the electrode is covered by TiN (titanium nitride) for determining the terminal point of the chemical machinery grinding treatment (CMP) in the manufacturing process of a chip.

[0004]

However, if high potential is impressed to the electrode covered by TiN and it is further exposed to ultraviolet light, oxidation of TiN will be caused in oxidizing atmospheres, such as air. This is generated when radiation, for example, passes the slit formed between the hinges of a mirror and a mirror.

[0005]

The problem by oxidation (titanium dioxide TiO<sub>2</sub>) of an electrode is that the deviation of a micro mirror decreases, when TiN oxidizes. Although the cause by which the deviation of a micro mirror decreases is not solved thoroughly, it is suspected whether the ingredient concerning an insulation is shut up into an oxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>). The power which the shut-up ingredient causes reduction of the electrical signal impressed in order to deflect a mirror, therefore acts on a mirror, and causes displacement decreases. Therefore, in order to acquire the stable effect, it is required to prevent oxidation of the TiN material arranged on an electrode. [0006]

Until now, the problem of oxidation of the TiN electrode of an above-mentioned chip is not fully solved. Since it is generally known that oxygen has accounted for the high rate in the air, the one method of solving this problem is enclosing a chip in an airtight box and making a box into a vacuum, and is avoiding contact with the air of a TiN electrode.

[0007]

The problem relevant to this method is that an airtight box is obtained only with a manufacturing process with high precision, and the quality material which makes manufacture expensive and difficult. The power caused by the open air acts on a box by making a box into a vacuum. Typically, a gas airtight box is manufactured from one part using high level work apparatus. Some of those parts must prepare the high closure power of precision for the case where two or more parts are used in order to form the box. [0008]

The necessity of preparing a window so that radiation may hit a part of chip at least by arranging a chip in a box occurs. Then, an airtight interface like the weather strip given to the circumference of a window, for example is needed between a box and a window.

The expense concerning such sealing also increases and such parts tend to receive damage simply during shipment of a box or handling etc.

[0009]

Since air may enter into an airtight box also in few leakage, in order that one more problem relevant to this method may not have leakage periodically or may inspect a box, it is that the labor of a maintenance increases inevitably. Additional apparatus, such as a manometer, may be needed in a box for such Measurement Division. As a result, a labor and cost increase.

Another method of protecting a chip from oxidation is the method of arranging a chip in a box and filling protection gas with high voltage in a box from pneumatic pressure. However, a box must be airtight, in order to prevent emitting protection gas rapidly out of a box also in this case and to prevent the surrounding air's invading into the inside of a box, and mixing it with protection gas. Therefore, the above-mentioned problem is applied also to this method.

[Description of the Invention]

[Problem to be solved by the invention]

0011

In order that the purpose of this invention may protect a chip from degradation based on this advanced technology so that the stable operation of a chip may be made possible, it is providing better equipment and a better method.

[Means for solving problem]

[0012]

This purpose is solved by equipment given in the claim 1, and a method given in the claim 12. [0013]

This invention the chip which contains at least one micro mirror which can be displaced according to the impressed signal, While having received the exposure of radiation, the equipment which protects a reaction with a part of chip and a reaction component from degradation made into a cause is shown, and this equipment, It has a window which permits the chamber for storing a chip, the penetration of radiation, and the exposure of a chip through which it passes in part at least, and a reaction component is swept away from the above-mentioned chamber by the flow of gas.

This invention provides the method of operating a chip. In order that this chip may displace the micro mirror formed from aluminum or an aluminum alloy, and a micro mirror. It has an electrode for generating electric power between micro mirrors, a described method is provided with the step which applies the flow of gas to a chip, and the step which irradiates with a chip while the flow of gas is applied by the chip, and the above-mentioned chip is protected from degradation [ it receives the exposure of radiation ] of a between.

[0015]

[0014]

According to this invention, by sweeping away air from a chip by the flow of gas, the stable operation of a chip protects a chip from degradation, and is acquired by preventing oxidation and the problem to which it comes from there. Removal of this air is attained by preparing the chamber for storing a chip which has an entrance of the gas which slushes gas into a chamber from the supply source of gas. Since the gas airtightness for protecting a chip is not required for this chamber, it can be manufactured by an inexpensive method and is easy to use it.

[0016]

According to a certain desirable embodiment, a chip is provided with the micro mirror formed from aluminum or an aluminum alloy, and the electrode which is on a chip and has been arranged under the electrode in order to be covered in the layer which comprises TiN material and to impress electrostatic force to a micro mirror. Oxidation of TiN material can be prevented by a chip's receiving the exposure of ultraviolet rays in the part at least, and sweeping away air from a chip by the flow of gas, while operating so that a micro mirror may be displaced according to the electrical signal impressed to the electrode.

[Best Mode of Carrying Out the Invention]

[0017]

The desirable embodiment of this invention is described below, referring to the attached Drawings.

Drawing 1 shows the top view of the desirable embodiment of this invention,

Drawing 2 shows the side view of the embodiment of drawing 1.

[Work example 1]

[0018]

The equipment 10 according to the desirable embodiment of this invention is shown in <u>drawing 1</u>. It is for the equipment 10 protecting a chip from degradation, and has the housing 12 called a box. The housing 12 of this invention is not limited to a certain specific form, but, in addition to the form illustrated, other form, such as a cylindrical shape, is usable at this invention. [0019]

The housing 12 has the upper surface 14 in which the hollow 16 was formed. The hollow 16 is suitable for storing a chip. Desirably, when a chip is arranged in the hollow 16, the hollow 16 has a little bigger size than a chip so that only few crevices may remain between a chip and the side attachment wall of the hollow 16. Thereby, it accompanies on the surface of a chip, and the flow of gas hits so that details may be explained below.

[0020]

The optical window 18 is formed in the upper surface of the housing 12, ultraviolet rays penetrate the optical window 18, and the thing of the surface of the chip arranged in the hollow 16 which it hits in part at least is permitted. The optical window 18 is prolonged exceeding the size of the hollow 16 so that the whole surface of the chip which meets the optical window 18 can receive the exposure of ultraviolet rays. An optical window is formed from one which lets the Quartz material and ultraviolet rays pass of other materials (magnesium fluoride), for example, MgF<sub>2</sub>.

The equipment 10 includes the entrance 20 of gas in the housing 12. The entrance 20 of gas accommodates the pipe 22. The entrance 20 of gas is connected with the hollow 16 in order to make gas blow into the hollow 16 of the housing 12 from the pipe 22. Although the entrance 20 of gas is arranged on the side of the housing 12, this entrance 20 may be arranged to the housing 12 at the suitable place of the bottom which counters the upper surface 14, or others.

Another end of the gas pipe 22 is connected with the gas supply source 24 which stores protection gas. A flow of gas from the gas supply source 24 to the hollow 16 of the housing 12 is controlled by the flow control device (mass flow controller) 26. [0023]

Desirably, argon, or nitrogen/hydrogen of protection gas is good. However, it is also possible to use for other embodiments publicly known gas supplied in order to protect from oxidation.
[002]

Generally the flow control device 26 is a thing usable type.

It is possible to control a flow of gas according to predetermined parameters, such as capacity of the hollow 16 of the housing 12.

#### [0025]

<u>Drawing 2</u> shows a sectional view of the pipe 20 of the housing 12 and <u>drawing 1</u>. The housing 12 comprises the chip housing 12a which plays a role of a base plate, and the superior lamella 12b which has around the flange 28 extended caudad. The chip housing 12a is attached so that the superior lamella 12b may be met. The hollow 16 was formed in the superior lamella 12b, penetrated the superior lamella 12b and has extended. The window 18 is formed on the upper surface 14 of the superior lamella 12b. As shown in <u>drawing 2</u>, when the chip housing 12a and the superior lamella 12b unite, the chip 30 is arranged on the chip housing 12a so that the chip 30 may be arranged in the hollow 16. As shown in a figure, the gap 32 is maintained between a chip, a side attachment wall of the hollow 16, and the window 18, and a size of the chip 30 and the hollow 16 is formed in a size which permits that gas passes the chip 30. Since gas airtightness is not required, displacement of the chip 30 is easy.

[0026]

Below, in relation to further embodiment using the specific chip 30, an operation of the equipment 10 is explained still in detail. The chip 30 is provided with a micro mirror formed from aluminum or an aluminum alloy. In order to give electrostatic force to a micro mirror according to an electrical signal impressed to an electrode, an electrode is arranged under the micro mirror. An electrode is covered by TiN, in order to determine a terminal point of CMP treatment in a manufacturing process of a chip. [0027]

In a process of an operation, in order to prevent oxidation of TiN material which has covered an electrode, the chip 30 is arranged in a chamber formed from the hollow 16, the window 18, and the chip housing 12a. Protection gas from the gas supply source 24 flows into an inside of a chamber from the entrance 20 of the pipe 22 and gas, being controlled by the flow control device 26.

[0028]

After flowing into an inside of a chamber from the entrance 20 of gas, gas flows into the chip 30 from the gap 32, and the upper surface of the chip 30 which meets the window 18 is passed. By a flow of gas which passes the chip 30, air is swept away from the chip 30. The air from which a chamber was removed by flow of not an airtight structure but gas and gas can flow out of a chamber. The housing 12 is designed enable an outflow of gas desirably from the side which counters the entrance 20 of gas of a chamber so that a flow of gas may cover the whole upper surface of the chip 30. An additional means into which gas is made to flow out of a chamber can also be provided in the flange 28 of a side which counters the entrance 20 of gas.

[0029]

In a certain embodiment, the entrance 20 of gas is countered and an exit of gas may be provided. When an exit of gas is provided, it is possible to reflux gas which flows out of a chamber to a gas supply source, and to form a closed circuit of gas. When expensive protection gas is used, this embodiment is effective in order to reduce a loss of protection gas.

[0030]

Air of a chamber is swept away by gas which passes a chamber, and a chamber does not touch air, as long as a flow of gas is maintained in a chamber after that.

[0031]

A flow of gas plays a role which cools the chip 30 which is tinged with heat because radiation hits so that it may explain below. [0032]

In an operation process of the chip 30, it is irradiated with ultraviolet rays produced by suitable sources of release, such as a mercury-vapor lamp and laser, by the window 18, the window 18 is penetrated, and it hits a micro mirror arranged on the upper surface of the chip 30 which meets the window 18. The window 18 is formed from one which can penetrate Quartz, MgF<sub>2</sub>, or ultraviolet rays of other materials so that ultraviolet rays of a high rate may penetrate the window 18 and it may hit the chip 30. It is better to incline to the upper surface of the chip 30 desirably, in order to avoid a double picture (double imaging). [0033]

It reflects there, and after ultraviolet rays equivalent to a micro mirror penetrate the window 18, they are turned to the exterior of the housing 12. An electrical signal is impressed to an electrode in which a micro mirror located in the upper surface of the chip 30 was provided caudad. An electrical signal generated from a power supply means of the chamber exterior is impressed to an electrode via an electrical connection means.

According to an electrical signal, electrostatic force acts on a micro mirror and displaces a micro mirror. Displacement of a micro mirror changes direction of a reflected beam of light. Therefore, according to an electrical signal impressed to an electrode, spatial modulation (spatial modulation) of a reflected ray is attained at a place where a reflected ray has hit.
[0035]

Since a chamber is maintained so that neither air, nor oxygen and humidity can be touched, a non-oxidizing atmosphere is attained for the chip 30 arranged in a chamber. Oxidation of TiN material which has covered by this an electrode which has a micro mirror caudad during an operation of the chip 30 is prevented. Probably, this oxidation was generated supposing the chip 30 was exposed to oxidation reaction ingredients, such as oxygen in the air. As mentioned above, high potential is impressed to an electrode, and oxidation of TiN material [ it is operating the chip 30 in an oxidizing atmosphere ] of a between is generated, when ultraviolet rays pass a slit between hinges of a micro mirror and a micro mirror and hit TiN material. If oxidation of TiN material cannot be prevented, displacement of a micro mirror according to an electrical signal impressed to an electrode decreases, and causes an unstable operation of a chip.

Desirably, the hollow 16 is designed so that the gap 32 between the chip 30 and the optical window 18 may have a small section. A rapid flow of gas is made possible along the surface of the chip 30 with which radiation which penetrated the optical window 18 was irradiated by this. Therefore, in the required ranges of protection, such as a range irradiated by radiation because there is the small gap 32, air is removed from the chip 30 at high speed. Even when a flow of gas from the gas supply source 24 to an entrance of gas is poorly set up by the flow control device 26, advanced protection is attained with the small gap 32. [0037]

Since airtightness is not needed by solution of this invention of giving a flow of gas which passes along a chamber but manufacture of the housing 12 becomes inexpensive by it, protection with a low price of the chip 30 realizes a chamber. [0038]

Technical devices, such as the gas supply source 22 and the flow control device 24, can be made a type which can generally be used, and can promote reduction of cost, and an ease of handling further.
[0039]

In addition, since a scheduled inspection of disclosure for a stable operation is not needed, expense concerning a maintenance can be reduced. If disclosure should occur, it is effective also in order for the flow control device 24 to detect an increase in a flow of gas which tells the possibility of disclosure. In such a case, in order to prevent air from entering into an inside of a chamber, the flow control device can operate so that more high-pressure gas may be supplied.

[0040]

The equipment 10 of this invention can also be accumulated into the existing system which uses a chip further similar to the chip 30 for modulating radiation. Since special technology is not needed, such accumulation can be attained easily.
[0041]

A size and form of the hollow 16 can be chosen according to conditions from the chip 30. In a certain embodiment, it has intention so that the chip 30 and its package may be made into one and it may arrange in the hollow 16. In this embodiment, the hollow 16 is designed accept the chip 30 with that package, and a chamber is supplied, it passes along the surface of a package, and the chip 30 does not touch air by a flow of gas which sweeps away air from a chip.

[0042]

Although an above-mentioned desirable embodiment explained that the chip 30 was provided with a single micro mirror formed from aluminum or an aluminum alloy, and was provided with a single electrode further covered with TiN, this invention is not limited to this specific chip 30.

[0043]

If an example is given, an embodiment which uses the chip 30 provided with two or more micro mirrors and two or more electrodes covered with TiN is also possible.

Although an above-mentioned desirable embodiment explained prevention of oxidation of TiN generated while receiving an exposure by ultraviolet rays of the chip 30, this invention is not limited to this specific protection.

[00.45]

An object of this invention is to provide general protection of the chip 30 from influence rather caused by existence of a reaction component while the chip 30 has received an exposure.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[0046]

[Drawing 1] It is a top view of the desirable embodiment of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is a side view of the embodiment of drawing 1.

[Explanations of letters or numerals]

[0047]

- 10 Equipment
- 12 Housing
- 14 Upper surface
- 16 Hollow
- 18 Optical window
- 20 The entrance of gas
- 24 Gas supply source
- 26 Flow control device
- 30 Chip

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#### **DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[0046]

[Drawing 1] It is a top view of the desirable embodiment of this invention.

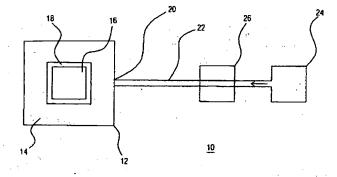
Drawing 2 It is a side view of the embodiment of drawing 1.

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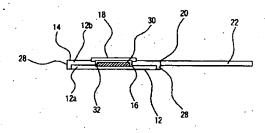
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#### **DRAWINGS**

## [Drawing 1]



## [Drawing 2]



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#### WRITTEN AMENDMENT

[Written Amendment]

[Filing date]Heisei 16(2004) March 23 (2004.3.23)

[Amendment 1]

[Document to be Amended]Description

[Item(s) to be Amended]Claims

[Method of Amendment]Change

[The contents of amendment]

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]It is equipment (10) protected from degradation which makes a cause a reaction with a part of chip and a reaction component while having received an exposure of radiation for a chip (30) which contains at least one micro mirror which can be displaced according to an impressed signal, and the above-mentioned equipment (10) is,

A chamber (16) for storing the above-mentioned chip (30),

It has a window (18) which permits a penetration of the above-mentioned radiation, and an exposure of the above-mentioned chip (30) through which it passes in part at least,

The above-mentioned chamber (16),

An entrance (20) of gas formed so that it might connect with the above-mentioned chamber (16) and a flow of gas might be received from a gas supply source (24).

Equipment provided with an exit of gas formed so that it might connect with the above-mentioned chamber (16) and gas from the above-mentioned chamber (16) might be received.

[Claim 2]It is the equipment (10) according to claim 1,

Equipment which the above-mentioned reaction component is oxygen contained in the surrounding air, and is characterized by protecting a flow of the above-mentioned gas so that an ingredient which can oxidize the above-mentioned chip (30) while the above-mentioned chip (30) is operating with the above-mentioned radiation which hits the above-mentioned chip (30) may not oxidize.

[Claim 3]It is the equipment (10) according to claim 1 or 2,

Equipment permitting that gas reveals the above-mentioned chamber (12) to the surrounding air.

[Claim 4] It is the equipment (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 3,

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned window (18) inclines to the surface of the above-mentioned chip (30).

[Claim 5] It is the equipment (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 4,

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned window is formed so that ultraviolet rays may be made to penetrate.

[Claim 6]It is the equipment (10) according to claim 5,

The above-mentioned window (18) makes the above-mentioned ultraviolet rays penetrate.

The above-mentioned chip (30) is provided with a micro mirror containing aluminum or an aluminum alloy and an electrode for generating electric power for displacing the above-mentioned micro mirror between the above-mentioned micro mirrors,

The above-mentioned electrode is formed by TiN, or contains TiN,

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned chip is arranged inside a package.

[Claim 7] It is the equipment (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 6,

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned chamber (16) is provided with a means for an electrical link of the above-mentioned chip (30) and a power supply means of the exterior of the above-mentioned chamber (16).

[Claim 8]It is the equipment (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 7,

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned equipment (10) is further provided with housing (12, 12a, 12b) and the above-mentioned chamber (16) is formed of a crevice in the above-mentioned housing (12, 12a, 12b).

[Claim 9] It is the equipment (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 8,

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned equipment (10) is provided with housing which contains chip housing (12a) and a superior lamella (12b) further.

[Claim 10] It has an electrode for generating electric power between the above-mentioned micro mirrors, in order to displace a micro mirror in which it is how to operate a chip (30) and the above-mentioned chip (30) contains aluminum or an aluminum alloy, and the above-mentioned micro mirror, and is a described method,

A step which applies a flow of gas to the above-mentioned chip (30) in order to protect the above-mentioned chip from degradation.

A method provided with a step with which the above-mentioned chip (30) is irradiated while a flow of the above-mentioned gas is applied by the above-mentioned chip (30).

[Claim 11] It is the method according to claim 10,

Equipment, wherein the above-mentioned radiation is ultraviolet rays.

[Claim 12] It is the method according to claim 10 or 11,

A method while the above-mentioned electrode is formed from TiN, and the above-mentioned chip (30) is operating with radiation which hits the above-mentioned chip (30), wherein a flow of the above-mentioned gas prevents oxidation of the above-mentioned electrode.

[A Written Amendment]

[Filing date]Heisei 16(2004) October 26 (2004,10,26)

[Amendment 1]

[Document to be Amended]Claims

[Item(s) to be Amended]Claim 3

[Method of Amendment]Change

[The contents of amendment]

[Claim 3]

It is the equipment (10) according to claim 1 or 2,

Equipment permitting that gas reveals the above-mentioned chamber (16) to the surrounding air.

[Amendment 2]

[Document to be Amended]Claims

[Item(s) to be Amended]Claim 10

[Method of Amendment]Change

[The contents of amendment]

Claim 10

It has an electrode for generating electric power between the above-mentioned micro mirrors, in order to displace a micro mirror in which it is how to operate a chip (30) and the above-mentioned chip (30) contains aluminum or an aluminum alloy, and the above-mentioned micro mirror, and is a described method,

A step which applies a flow of gas to the above-mentioned chip (30) in order to protect the above-mentioned chip from degradation,

A method provided with a step which irradiates the above-mentioned chip (30) with <u>radiation</u> while a flow of the above-mentioned gas is applied by the above-mentioned chip (30).

[Amendment 3]

[Document to be Amended]Description

[Item(s) to be Amended]0016

[Method of Amendment]Change

[The contents of amendment]

[0016]

According to a certain desirable embodiment, a chip is provided with the micro mirror formed from aluminum or an aluminum alloy, and the electrode which is on a chip and has been arranged under the micro mirror in order to be covered in the layer which comprises TiN material and to impress electrostatic force to a micro mirror. Oxidation of TiN material can be prevented by a chip's receiving the exposure of ultraviolet rays in the part at least, and sweeping away air from a chip by the flow of gas, while operating so that a micro mirror may be displaced according to the electrical signal impressed to the electrode.

[Amendment 4]

[Document to be Amended]Description

[Item(s) to be Amended]0038

[Method of Amendment]Change

[The contents of amendment]

[8800]

Technical devices, such as the gas supply source <u>24</u> and the flow control device <u>26</u>, can be made the type which can generally be used, and can promote reduction of cost, and the ease of handling further.

[Amendment 5]

[Document to be Amended]Description

[Item(s) to be Amended]0039

[Method of Amendment]Change

[The contents of amendment]

[0039]

In addition, since the scheduled inspection of disclosure for a stable operation is not needed, the expense concerning a maintenance can be reduced. If disclosure should occur, it is effective also in order for the flow control device 26 to detect the increase in a flow of the gas which tells the possibility of disclosure. In such a case, in order to prevent air from entering into the inside of a chamber, the flow control device can operate so that more high-pressure gas may be supplied.

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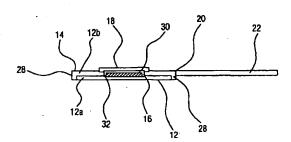
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## (54) 【発明の名称】チップの保護装置およびチップの作動方法

## (57)【要約】

チップ (30) を保護するための装置は、チップ (30) を収納するためのチャンバ (16) と、放射線の通過 およびチップ (30) への照射を許容する窓 (18) と、ガスの入口 (20) とを備える。ガスの入口はチャンバ (16) と連結され、ガス供給源 (24) からガスの流れを受け取り、ガスの流れはチップ (30) を保護する。



#### 【特許請求の範囲】

### 【請求項1】

印加された信号に応じて変位可能なマイクロミラーを少なくとも1つ含むチップ(30) を、放射線の照射を受けている間、チップの一部と反応成分との反応を原因とする劣化か ら保護する装置(10)であって、上記装置(10)は、

上記チップ(30)を収納するためのチャンバ(16)と、

上記放射線の透過と上記チップ(30)の少なくとも一部への照射とを許容する窓(18 )とを備え、

ガスの流れによって上記チャンバ(16)から上記反応成分が一掃されることを特徴とす る装置。

#### 【請求項2】

請求項1に記載の装置(10)であって、

上記反応成分は周囲の空気に含まれる酸素であり、上記ガスの流れは上記チップ(30) に当たる上記放射線によって上記チップ(30)が作動している間に上記チップ(30) の酸化可能な成分が酸化しないように保護することを特徴とする装置。

#### 【請求項3】

請求項1または2に記載の装置(10)であって、

上記チャンバ(12)はガスが周囲の空気に漏洩することを許容することを特徴とする装 置。

#### 【請求項4】

請求項1乃至3のいずれかに記載の装置(10)であって、

上記チャンバ(16)は、上記チャンバ(16)と連結されかつガス供給源(24)から 上記チャンバ(16)を一掃するためのガスの流れを受取るように形成されたガスの入口 (20)を備えることを特徴とする装置。

#### 【請求項5】

請求項1乃至4のいずれかに記載の装置(10)であって、

上記チャンバ(16)は、上記チャンバ(16)と連結されたガスの出口を備え、上記ガ スの出口は上記チャンバ(16)からのガスを受取るように形成されていることを特徴と する装置。

#### 【·請求項6】

請求項1乃至5のいずれかに記載の装置(10)であって、

上記窓(18)は上記チップ(30)の表面に対し傾斜していることを特徴とする装置。

請求項1乃至6のいずれかに記載の装置(10)であって、

上記放射線は紫外線であることを特徴とする装置。

#### 【請求項8】

請求項7に記載の装置(10)であって、

上記窓(18)は上記紫外線を透過させるものであり、

上記チップ(30)はアルミニウムまたはアルミニウム合金を含むマイクロミラーと、上 記マイクロミラーを変位させるための電気的力を上記マイクロミラーとの間に発生させる 40 ための電極とを備え、

上記電極はTiNで形成されるかまたはTiNを含み、

上記チップはパッケージの内部に配置されていることを特徴とする装置。

#### 【請求項9】

請求項1乃至8のいずれかに記載の装置(10)であって、

上記チャンバ (16) は、上記チップ (30) と上記チャンバ (16) の外部の電力供給 手段との電気的接続のための手段を備えることを特徴とする装置。

## 【請求項10】

請求項1乃至9のいずれかに記載の装置(10)であって、

上記装置(10)はさらにハウジング(12、12a、12b)を備え、上記チャンバ( 50

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16)は上記ハウジング(12, 12a, 12b)内の凹部によって形成されていることを特徴とする装置。

【請求項11】

請求項1乃至10のいずれかに記載の装置(10)であって、

上記装置(10)はさらにチップハウジング(12a)と上板(12b)とを含むハウジングを備えることを特徴とする装置。

【請求項12】

チップ(30)を作動させる方法であって、上記チップ(30)は、アルミニウムまたは アルミニウム合金を含むマイクロミラーと、上記マイクロミラーを変位させるため、上記 マイクロミラーとの間に電気的力を発生させるための電極とを備え、上記方法は、

ガスの流れを上記チップ(30)に当てるステップと、

上記ガスの流れが上記チップ(30)に当てられている間に上記チップ(30)に照射するステップとを備え、

上記チップ(30)は照射されている間、劣化から保護されることを特徴とする方法。

【請求項13】

請求項12に記載の方法であって、

上記放射線は紫外線であることを特徴とする装置。

【請求項14】

請求項12または13に記載の方法であって、

上記電極は T i N から形成され、上記ガスの流れは、上記チップ(30)に当たる放射線によって上記チップ(30)が作動している間、上記電極の酸化を防止することを特徴とする方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【技術分野】

[0001]

本発明は、電子部品チップの劣化からの保護に関し、特に、チップの放射線の照射を受ける間の劣化からの保護に関するものである。

【背景技術】

[0002]

1個または複数個のチップの上に集積されたマイクロミラーを含む装置は、現在、光学スイッチの分野や光変調の分野などの多様な応用分野に使用されている。チップに含まれるマイクロミラーは、電気信号に応じて機械的に変位させられ、光源から照射されてマイクロミラーにより反射された光は、空間変調されることができる。約248ナノメートルの波長を有する紫外線光域の中で使用するために、この光域において良好な光学反射特性を備えたアルミニウムまたはアルミニウム合金から形成されたマイクロミラーが使用されている。

[0003]

アルミニウムまたはアルミニウム合金から形成されたマイクロミラーを含む公知のチップは、マイクロミラーの下方に配置された電極を有する。電極には、マイクロミラーを変位させるために電気信号が印加される。典型的な装置では、電極は、チップの製造過程における化学機械的研磨処理(CMP)の終点を決定するためのTiN(窒化チタン)で覆われている。

[0004]

しかしながら、TiNで覆われた電極に高い電位が印加され、さらに紫外線光にさらされると、空気などの酸化環境中ではTiNの酸化が引き起こされる。これは、例えば、ミラーとミラーのヒンジとの間に形成されたスリットを放射線が通過するときなどに発生する

[0005]

電極の酸化(二酸化チタンTiО₂)による問題は、TiNが酸化した時にマイクロミラーの偏向が減少することである。マイクロミラーの偏向が減少する原因は完全には解明され

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ていないが、しかし、絶縁に係る成分が酸化物( $TiO_2$ )中に閉じ込められるのではないかと疑われている。閉じ込められた成分が、ミラーを偏向させるために印加された電気信号の減少を起こし、そのため、ミラーに作用して変位を引き起こす力が減少する。したがって、安定した効果を得るためには、電極上に配置されたTiN材料の酸化を防ぐことが必要である。

[0006]

これまで、上述のチップのTiN電極の酸化の問題は、十分には解決されていない。酸素は空気中の高い割合を占めていることは一般的に知られているため、この問題を解決する一つの方法は、気密箱の中にチップを封入し、箱を真空にすることで、TiN電極の空気との接触を避けることである。

[0007]

この方法に関連する問題は、気密箱が、精密度の高い製造過程と、製造を高価で難しいものにする高品質材料によってのみ得られることである。さらに、箱を真空にすることで、外気によって引き起こされる力が箱に作用する。典型的には、ガス気密箱は、高水準の作業機器を用い、1個の部品から製造される。その箱を形成するために複数の部品が用いられる場合には、それらの部品のいくつかは精密度の高い封止力を備えていなければならない。

[0008]

さらに、箱の中にチップを配置することで放射線が少なくともチップの一部に当たるように窓を用意する必要が発生し、その後、箱と窓の間に、例えば窓の周囲に施す目張りのような気密性の中間面が必要となる。このような封止にかかる費用も増大し、このような部品は例えば箱の船積みや取り扱い中などに簡単に損傷を受けやすい。

[0009]

この方法に関連するもう1つ問題は、わずかな漏れでも気密箱に空気が入り込むことがあるので、定期的に漏れがないか箱を検査しなければならないために、メンテナンスの労力が必然的に増大することである。このような計測のために箱の中に気圧計などの追加装置が必要となる可能性がある。その結果、労力とコストが増大する。

[0010]

チップを酸化から保護するもう一つの方法は、箱にチップを配置し、空気圧より高圧で保護ガスを箱に満たす方法である。しかし、この場合も、保護ガスが箱の外に急激に放出されるのを防ぎ、周囲の空気が箱の内部に侵入し保護ガスと混合するのを防ぐために、箱は気密でなければならない。したがって、上記の問題はこの方法にも当てはまる。

【発明の開示】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

[0011]

この先行技術を基にして、本発明の目的は、チップの安定作動を可能にするようチップを 劣化から保護するため、より良い装置とより良い方法とを提供することである。

【課題を解決するための手段】

[0012]

この目的は、クレーム1に記載の装置と、クレーム12に記載の方法とで解決される。

[0013]

本発明は、印加された信号に応じて変位可能なマイクロミラーを少なくとも1つ含むチップを、放射線の照射を受けている間、チップの一部と反応成分との反応を原因とする劣化から保護する装置を示し、この装置は、チップを収納するためのチャンバと、放射線の透過とチップの少なくとも一部への照射とを許容する窓とを備え、上記チャンバからガスの流れによって反応成分が一掃される。

[0014]

さらに、本発明は、チップを作動させる方法を提供する。このチップは、アルミニウムまたはアルミニウム合金から形成されたマイクロミラーと、マイクロミラーを変位させるため、マイクロミラーとの間に電気的力を発生させるための電極とを備え、上記方法は、ガ

スの流れをチップに当てるステップと、チップにガスの流れが当てられている間にチップを照射するステップとを備え、上記チップは放射線の照射を受ける間の劣化から保護される。

#### [0015]

本発明によれば、チップの安定作動は、ガスの流れでチップから空気を一掃することによりチップを劣化から保護し、酸化とそこからくる問題を防ぐことで得られる。この空気の除去は、ガスの供給源からチャンバにガスを流し込むガスの入口を有する、チップを収納するためのチャンバを準備することで達成される。このチャンバは、チップを保護するためのガス気密性が必要でないため、安価な方法で製造することができ、使用も容易である

[0016]

ある望ましい実施例によると、チップは、アルミニウムまたはアルミニウム合金から形成されたマイクロミラーと、TiN材料から成る層で覆われ、マイクロミラーに静電気力を印加するためにチップ上でかつ電極の下方に配置された電極と、を備える。TiN材料の酸化は、チップが少なくともその一部に紫外線の照射を受け、電極に印加された電気信号に応じてマイクロミラーを変位させるよう作動される間、ガスの流れによってチップから空気を一掃することにより、防止することができる。

【発明を実施するための最良の形態】

[001.7]

本発明の望ましい実施例は、添付した図面を参照しながら以下に説明する。

図1は本発明の望ましい実施例の平面図を示し、

図2は図1の実施例の側面図を示す。

【実施例1】

[0018]

図1には、本発明の望ましい実施例に従う装置10が示されている。装置10はチップを 劣化から保護するためのものであり、箱とも呼ばれるハウジング12を備える。本発明の ハウジング12はある特定の形に限定されておらず、図示される形状に加え、円筒形など 他の形状も本発明で使用可能である。

[0019]

ハウジング12は、凹所16が形成された上面14を持つ。凹所16はチップを収納するのに適している。望ましくは、チップが凹所16内に配置されるとき、チップと凹所16の側壁との間にわずかな隙間のみが残るように、凹所16はチップよりやや大きな寸法を有する。これにより、以下に詳細を説明するように、チップの表面に添ってガスの流れが当たるようになっている。

[0020]

さらに、光学窓18がハウジング12の上面に設けられ、紫外線が光学窓18を透過し、 凹所16内に配置されたチップの表面の少なくとも一部に当たることを許容する。光学窓 18は、光学窓18に対面するチップの表面全体が紫外線の照射を受けられるように、凹 所16の寸法を超えて延びている。光学窓は、クォーツ材料や紫外線を通す他のいずれか の材料、例えばMgF。(フッ化マグネシウム)から形成される。

[0021]

装置10は、ハウジング12にガスの入口20を含む。ガスの入口20は管22を収容する。ガスの入口20は、管22からハウジング12の凹所16にガスを吹き込ませるために、凹所16と繋がっている。ガスの入口20はハウジング12の側面に配置されているが、この入口20は、ハウジング12に対し、上面14に対向する底面か、または他の適切な場所に配置されてもよい。

[0022]

ガス管 2 2 のもう一方の端部は、保護ガスを貯留するガス供給源 2 4 に連結されている。ガス供給源 2 4 からハウジング 1 2 の凹所 1 6 へのガスの流れは、流量制御装置(mass flow controller) 2 6 によって制御されている。

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[0023]

望ましくは、保護ガスはアルゴンまたは窒素/水素がよい。しかし、酸化から保護するために供給される公知のガスを他の実施例に使うことも可能である。

[0024]

流量制御装置 2 6 は、一般に使用可能なタイプのものであり、ハウジング 1 2 の凹所 1 6 の容量などの所定のパラメーターに従って、ガスの流量を制御することが可能である。

[0025]

図2は、ハウジング12と図1の管20の断面図を示す。ハウジング12は、ベース板の役割を果たすチップハウジング12aと、下方にのびるフランジ部28を周囲に有する上板12bとで構成される。チップハウジング12aは上板12bに対面するように取り付けられている。凹所16は上板12b内に形成され、上板12bを貫通して延びている。窓18は上板12bの上面14上に形成される。図2に示されるように、チップハウジング12aと上板12bとが合体する時、凹所16内にチップ30が配置されるように、チップハウジング12a上にチップ30が配置される。図からわかるように、チップハウジング12a上にチップ30が配置される。図からわかるように、チップ30と凹所16との寸法は、チップ2、凹所16の側壁と、窓18との間にギャップ32が維持され、ガスがチップ30を通過することを許容するような寸法に形成されている。ガス気密性が必要ではないので、チップ30の変位は簡単である。

[0026]

以下に、特定のチップ30を使ったさらなる実施例に関連し、装置10の作動をさらに詳細に説明する。チップ30は、アルミニウムまたはアルミニウム合金から形成されたマイクロミラーを備える。電極に印加された電気信号に応じて、マイクロミラーに静電気力を与えるために、電極がマイクロミラーの下方に配置されている。電極は、チップの製造過程においてCMP処理の終点を決定するために、TiNで覆われている。

[0027]

作動の工程において、電極を覆っているTiN材料の酸化を防ぐために、凹所16と窓18とチップハウジング12aとから形成されたチャンバの中にチップ30が配置される。ガス供給源24からの保護ガスは、流量制御装置26で制御されながら、管22とガスの入口20からチャンバの内部に流れ込む。

[0028]

ガスの入口20からチャンバの内部に流れ込んだあと、ガスはギャップ32からチップ30に流れ、窓18に対面するチップ30の上面を通過する。チップ30を通過するガスの流れによって、空気はチップ30から一掃される。チャンバは気密構造ではなく、ガスとガスの流れによって除かれた空気とはチャンバから流れ出ることができる。ガスの流れがチップ30の上面全体を覆うように、ハウジング12は望ましくは、チャンバのガスの入口20に対向する側面からガスの流出を可能にするように設計される。ガスをチャンバから流出させる追加的な手段は、ガスの入口20に対向する側のフランジ28内に設けることも可能である。

[0029]

ある実施例では、ガスの入口 2 0 に対向してガスの出口が設けられてもよい。ガスの出口が設けられた場合には、チャンバから流出するガスをガス供給源へと還流させ、ガスの閉回路を形成することが可能である。この実施例は、高価な保護ガスを使用したときに、保護ガスの口スを低減するために効果的である。

[0030]

チャンバを通過するガスによってチャンバの空気は一掃され、チャンバはその後、チャンバ内にガスの流れが維持されている限り、空気には触れることがない。

[0031]

さらに、ガスの流れは、以下に説明するように、放射線が当たることで熱を帯びたチップ 30を冷却する役割を果たす。

[0032]

チップ30の作動工程において、水銀灯やレーザーなどの適切な発生源によって生み出さ

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れた紫外線は、窓18に照射され、窓18を透過して、窓18に対面するチップ30の上部表面上に配置されたマイクロミラーに当たる。窓18は、高い割合の紫外線が窓18を透過してチップ30に当たるように、クォーツ、MgF₂、または紫外線が透過可能な他のいずれかの材料から形成されている。望ましくは、二重画像(double imaging)を避けるために、チップ30の上面に対して傾斜しているほうが良い。

#### [0033]

マイクロミラーに当たる紫外線はそこで反射し、窓18を透過した後に、ハウジング12の外部に向けられる。電気信号は、チップ30の上面に位置するマイクロミラーの下方に設けられた電極に印加される。チャンバ外部の電力供給手段から発生した電気信号は、電気接続手段を介して電極に印加される。

#### [0034]

電気信号に応じて、静電気力がマイクロミラーに作用し、マイクロミラーを変位させる。マイクロミラーの変位は、反射した光線の向きを変化させる。したがって、電極に印加された電気信号に応じて、反射光線の空間変調(spatial modulation)は、反射光線が当たっている場所で達成される。

#### [0035]

チャンバは、空気や酸素、湿気に触れないよう維持されているので、チャンバ内に配置されたチップ30のために非酸化環境が達成される。これにより、チップ30の作動中に、マイクロミラーの下方にある電極を覆っているTiN材料の酸化を防ぐ。この酸化は、もしチップ30が空気中の酸素などの酸化反応成分にさらされたなら、発生していたであろう。上述のように、酸化環境の中でチップ30を作動させている間のTiN材料の酸化は、電極に高電位が印加され、紫外線がマイクロミラーとマイクロミラーのヒンジとの間のスリットを通過してTiN材料に当たる時に発生する。もしTiN材料の酸化が防止できなければ、電極に印加された電気信号に応じたマイクロミラーの変位は減少し、チップの不安定な作動を引き起こす。

## [0036]

望ましくは、凹所16はチップ30と光学窓18との間のギャップ32が小さな断面をもつように設計されている。これにより、光学窓18を透過した放射線が照射されたチップ30の表面に沿って、ガスの急速な流れを可能にする。したがって、小さなギャップ32があることで、放射線に照射された範囲など保護の必要な範囲では、チップ30から空気が高速で除去される。さらに、ガス供給源24からガスの入口へのガスの流れが、流量制御装置26により低水準に設定されている時でさえ、小さなギャップ32によって高度な保護が可能になる。

#### [0037]

チャンバを通るガスの流れを与えるという本発明の解決法により、チャンバは気密性が必要とされず、ハウジング12の製造が安価になるため、チップ30の低価格での保護が実現する。

#### [0038]

さらに、ガス供給源22や流量制御装置24などの技術的装置は、一般に利用できるタイプにすることが可能であり、コストの低減と取り扱いの容易さをさらに推進することができる。

#### [0039]

加えて、安定的な作動のための漏洩の定期的検査を必要としないので、メンテナンスにかかる費用を低減できる。万一漏洩が発生した場合は、流量制御装置24が漏えいの可能性を知らせるガスの流量増加を検出するためにも有効である。そのような場合、流量制御装置は、チャンバの内部に空気が入り込むのを防止するために、より高圧のガスを供給するように作動できる。

## [0040]

本発明の装置10はさらに、放射線を変調するためのチップ30に類似するチップを使用する既存のシステムの中に集積されることも可能である。特別な技術を必要としないため

、このような集積は容易に達成可能である。

#### [0041]

さらに、凹所16の大きさや形状は、チップ30からの条件に合わせて選ぶことができる。ある実施例では、チップ30とそのパッケージとを一体にして凹所16内に配置するよう意図されている。この実施例では、凹所16はチップ30をそのパッケージと共に受け入れるように設計されており、チャンバに供給されてパッケージの表面に沿って流され、チップから空気を一掃するガスの流れによって、チップ30は空気に触れることがない。【0042】

上述の望ましい実施例では、チップ30はアルミニウムまたはアルミニウム合金から形成された単一のマイクロミラーを備え、さらにTiNに覆われた単一の電極を備えるように説明したが、本発明はこの特定のチップ30に限定されるものではない。

[0043]

'一例を挙げると、複数のマイクロミラーと、TiNに覆われた複数の電極とを備えたチップ30を使用する実施例も可能である。

[0044]

さらに、上述の望ましい実施例では、チップ30の紫外線による照射を受ける間に発生するTiNの酸化の防止について説明したが、本発明はこの特定の保護に限定されない。

[0045]

本発明はむしろ、チップ30が照射を受けている間に反応成分の存在によって引き起こされる影響からのチップ30の全般的な保護を提供することを目的としている。

【図面の簡単な説明】

[0046]

【図1】本発明の望ましい実施例の平面図である。

【図2】図1の実施例の側面図である。

【符号の説明】

[0047]

10 装置

12 ハウジング

14 上面

16 凹所

18 光学窓

20 ガスの入口

2 4 ガス供給源

26 流量制御装置

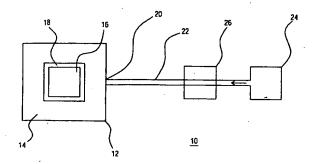
30 チップ

0

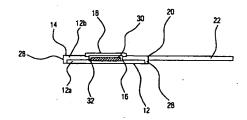
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## [図1]



#### 【図2】



#### 【手続補正書】

【提出日】平成16年3月23日(2004.3.23)

【手続補正1】,

【補正対象書類名】明細書

【補正対象項目名】特許請求の範囲

【補正方法】変更

【補正の内容】

【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】印加された信号に応じて変位可能なマイクロミラーを少なくとも1つ含むチップ(30)を、放射線の照射を受けている間、チップの一部と反応成分との反応を原因とする劣化から保護する装置(10)であって、上記装置(10)は、

上記チップ(30)を収納するためのチャンバ(16)と、

上記放射線の透過と上記チップ (30) の少なくとも一部への照射とを許容する窓 (18) とを備え、

上記チャンバ(16)は、

<u>上記チャンバ(16)と連結され、かつガス供給源(24)からガスの流れを受取るよう</u>に形成されたガスの入口(20)と、

<u>上記チャンバ(16)と連結され、かつ上記チャンバ(16)からのガスを受取るように</u> 形成されたガスの出口とを備えることを特徴とする装置。

【請求項2】請求項1に記載の装置(10)であって、

上記反応成分は周囲の空気に含まれる酸素であり、上記ガスの流れは上記チップ(30)に当たる上記放射線によって上記チップ(30)が作動している間に上記チップ(30)の酸化可能な成分が酸化しないように保護することを特徴とする装置。

【請求項3】請求項1または2に記載の装置(10)であって、

上記チャンバ(12)はガスが周囲の空気に漏洩することを許容することを特徴とする装

置。

【請求項4】請求項1乃至3のいずれかに記載の装置(10)であって、

上記窓(18)は上記チップ(30)の表面に対し傾斜していることを特徴とする装置。

【請求項5】請求項1乃至4のいずれかに記載の装置(10)であって、

<u>上記窓は紫外線を透過させるように形成されていることを特徴とする装置。</u>

【請求項<u>6</u>】請求項<u>5</u>に記載の装置(10)であって、

上記窓(18)は上記紫外線を透過させるものであり、

上記チップ(30)はアルミニウムまたはアルミニウム合金を含むマイクロミラーと、上記マイクロミラーを変位させるための電気的力を上記マイクロミラーとの間に発生させるための電極とを備え、

上記電極はTiNで形成されるかまたはTiNを含み、

上記チップはパッケージの内部に配置されていることを特徴とする装置。

【請求項7】請求項1乃至6のいずれかに記載の装置(10)であって、

上記チャンバ(16)は、上記チップ(30)と上記チャンバ(16)の外部の電力供給 手段との電気的接続のための手段を備えることを特徴とする装置。

【請求項8】請求項1乃至7のいずれかに記載の装置(10)であって、

上記装置(10)はさらにハウジング(12, 12a, 12b)を備え、上記チャンバ( 16)は上記ハウジング(12, 12a, 12b)内の凹部によって形成されていること を特徴とする装置。

【請求項9】請求項1乃至8のいずれかに記載の装置(10)であって、

上記装置(10)はさらにチップハウジング(12a)と上板(12b)とを含むハウジングを備えることを特徴とする装置。

【請求項<u>10</u>】チップ(30)を作動させる方法であって、上記チップ(30)は、アルミニウムまたはアルミニウム合金を含むマイクロミラーと、上記マイクロミラーを変位させるため、上記マイクロミラーとの間に電気的力を発生させるための電極とを備え、上記方法は、

<u>上記チップを劣化から保護するために、</u>ガスの流れを上記チップ(30)に当てるステップと、

上記ガスの流れが上記チップ(30)に当てられている間に上記チップ(30)に照射するステップとを備えることを特徴とする方法。

【請求項<u>1 1</u>】請求項<u>1 0</u>に記載の方法であって、

上記放射線は紫外線であることを特徴とする装置。

【請求項12】請求項10または11に記載の方法であって、

上記電極は T i N から形成され、上記ガスの流れは、上記チップ (30) に当たる放射線によって上記チップ (30) が作動している間、上記電極の酸化を防止することを特徴とする方法。

【手続補正書】

【提出日】平成16年10月26日(2004.10.26)

【手続補正1】

【補正対象書類名】特許請求の範囲

【補正対象項目名】請求項3

【補正方法】変更

【補正の内容】

【請求項3】

請求項1または2に記載の装置(10)であって、

上記チャンバ (16) はガスが周囲の空気に漏洩することを許容することを特徴とする装置。

【手続補正2】

【補正対象書類名】特許請求の範囲

【補正対象項目名】請求項10

#### 【補正方法】変更

【補正の内容】

【請求項10】

チップ(30)を作動させる方法であって、上記チップ(30)は、アルミニウムまたは アルミニウム合金を含むマイクロミラーと、上記マイクロミラーを変位させるため、上記 マイクロミラーとの間に電気的力を発生させるための電極とを備え、上記方法は、

上記チップを劣化から保護するために、ガスの流れを上記チップ(30)に当てるステップと、

上記ガスの流れが上記チップ(30)に当てられている間に上記チップ(30)に<u>放射線を</u>照射するステップとを備えることを特徴とする方法。

【手続補正3】

【補正対象書類名】明細書

【補正対象項目名】0016

【補正方法】変更

【補正の内容】

[0016]

ある望ましい実施例によると、チップは、アルミニウムまたはアルミニウム合金から形成されたマイクロミラーと、TiN材料から成る層で覆われ、マイクロミラーに静電気力を印加するためにチップ上でかつ<u>マイクロミラー</u>の下方に配置された電極と、を備える。TiN材料の酸化は、チップが少なくともその一部に紫外線の照射を受け、電極に印加された電気信号に応じてマイクロミラーを変位させるよう作動される間、ガスの流れによってチップから空気を一掃することにより、防止することができる。

【手続補正4】

【補正対象書類名】明細書

【補正対象項目名】 0 0 3 8

【補正方法】変更

【補正の内容】

[0038]

さらに、ガス供給源<u>24</u>や流量制御装置<u>26</u>などの技術的装置は、一般に利用できるタイプにすることが可能であり、コストの低減と取り扱いの容易さをさらに推進することができる。

【手続補正5】

【補正対象書類名】明細書

【補正対象項目名】 0 0 3 9

【補正方法】変更

【補正の内容】

[0039]

加えて、安定的な作動のための漏洩の定期的検査を必要としないので、メンテナンスにかかる費用を低減できる。万一漏洩が発生した場合は、流量制御装置 2.6 が漏えいの可能性を知らせるガスの流量増加を検出するためにも有効である。そのような場合、流量制御装置は、チャンバの内部に空気が入り込むのを防止するために、より高圧のガスを供給するように作動できる。

## 【国際調査報告】

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